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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6200

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June 25, 2025

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C., 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy:

I write today alarmed by your decision to fire all 17 members of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP),¹ and the subsequent installation of individuals who are unqualified, have serious conflicts of interest, and/or are outright vaccine alarmists.² Since your confirmation as the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), you have taken a series of actions that pose unprecedented danger to Americans' health. Your recent ACIP dismissals directly impede patient access to vaccines, despite promises you made to the Finance Committee in sworn testimony that you would "do nothing that makes it difficult or discourages people from taking vaccines." This represents a glaring abdication of your sworn oath to protect the health and safety of all Americans.

Up until now, ACIP has been considered the nation's premier advisory committee on vaccine safety. It holds regular public meetings, reviews scientific evidence, and makes immunization recommendations for the general population. Based on these recommendations, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) sets vaccine schedules for children and adults. These vaccine recommendations are tied to health plan coverage and cost-sharing requirements, including for Senate Finance Committee jurisdiction programs like Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Additionally, ACIP recommendations are used to determine Vaccines for Children (VFC) program coverage.³ For over 30 years, the VFC program has provided vaccines to eligible children at no cost.⁴ VFC has prevented an estimated 472

¹ Mary Kekatos, *ABC News*, "RFK Jr. removes all 17 members of CDC's vaccine advisory committee," (June 9, 2025) <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/rfk-jr-removing-17-members-cdcs-vaccine-advisory/story?id=122670046>.

² Mike Stobbe, *AP News*, "Kennedy's new CDC panel includes members who have criticized vaccines and spread misinformation," (June 12, 2025) <https://apnews.com/article/cdc-acip-vaccine-committee-9f58e1f004075b081718ff078de88d76>.

³ Centers for Disease Control, "Vaccines for Children Program," (referenced Jan. 2025) <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines-for-children/about/index.html>.

⁴ *Id.*

million illnesses and 29.8 million hospital admissions for an estimated total cost-saving of \$2.2 trillion from illness prevention.⁵

Your recent actions as Secretary impede patient access to vaccines, which is a direct contradiction to your testimony under oath to bipartisan members of the Finance Committee. There are already reports of pregnant women being unable to access COVID-19 vaccination as a result of your actions as Secretary.⁶ I fear that access to additional vaccines may be curtailed following the upcoming ACIP meeting.

Vaccines are one of the greatest public health innovations of all time. One study estimated that the World Health Organization's global vaccine efforts have averted 154 million deaths, including 146 million among children under age five, over the last 50 years.⁷ That translates to a remarkable six lives saved every minute of every day of every year.⁸ Not only do vaccines save lives, they prevent millions of people from suffering long-term effects of serious illnesses which in turn saves money across the entire health care system. Without proper vaccination uptake, hospitalizations increase and people die from vaccine-preventable diseases. The most severe risks are borne by infants, children, vulnerable seniors, and immunocompromised individuals. You have taken drastic steps, as listed below, to undermine vaccines and expose the American people to harm.

1. You misled Congress about what actions you would take as Secretary related to vaccines, and with regard to ACIP specifically.

First, you misled me and my colleagues by assuring us throughout your confirmation process that you would not take steps to reduce vaccine access. During your Finance Committee confirmation hearing, nine members asked vaccine-related questions, and the word "vaccine" came-up 243 times in your questions for the record (QFR).⁹ When I explicitly asked you if you would replace current ACIP members, you attested that you would "do nothing as HHS secretary that makes it difficult or discourages people from taking vaccines but instead seek transparency in these products."¹⁰ Similarly, you told Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee Chairman Bill Cassidy that you would "maintain the Centers for Disease Control and

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Asuka Koda, *CNN*, "New federal Covid-19 vaccine policies are already keeping some people from getting shots," (June 12, 2025) <https://amp.cnn.com/cnn/2025/06/12/health/covid-vaccine-pregnant-women>.

⁷ Andrew J. Shattock et al., *The Lancet*, "Contribution of vaccination to improved survival and health: modelling 50 years of the Expanded Programme on Immunization," (Vol. 403, Issue 10441, 2307-2316) [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(24\)00850-X/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(24)00850-X/fulltext).

⁸ Children's Hospital of Philadelphia – Vaccine Education Center, "The Impact of Vaccines," (Mar, 31, 2025) <https://www.chop.edu/vaccine-education-center/science-history/vaccine-history/impact-of-vaccines>.

⁹ U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, *Responses to Questions for the Record to Robert F. Kennedy Jr. – Part I* (Feb. 2025) https://www.finance.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/responses_to_questions_for_the_record_to_robert_f_kennedy_jrpart1.pdf; U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, *Responses to Questions for the Record to Robert F. Kennedy Jr. – Part II* (Feb. 2025) https://www.finance.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/responses_to_questions_for_the_record_to_robert_f_kennedy_jrpart2.pdf; U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, *Responses to Questions for the Record to Robert F. Kennedy Jr. – Part III* (Feb. 2025) https://www.finance.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/responses_to_questions_for_the_record_to_robert_f_kennedy_jrpart3.pdf.

¹⁰ U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, *Responses to Questions for the Record to Robert F. Kennedy Jr. – Part II* (May 2025) https://www.finance.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/responses_to_questions_for_the_record_to_robert_f_kennedy_jrpart2.pdf.

Prevention’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices without changes.”¹¹ HELP Chairman Bill Cassidy reported that this commitment was critical to you securing his vote.¹²

Prior to dismissing ACIP’s membership, you spread misinformation related to the integrity of its makeup. The fired ACIP members were independent scientists, clinicians, and researchers with expertise on vaccines,¹³ and ACIP members must adhere to strict conflict of interest rules.¹⁴ However, during your confirmation hearing you impugned the body’s credibility by claiming that 97 percent of ACIP members have conflicts of interest, without citing specific violations.¹⁵ You echoed similar misinformation in your recent *Wall Street Journal* op-ed saying that “conflicts of interest persist. Most of ACIP’s members have received financial funding from pharmaceutical companies.”¹⁶

Your ACIP dismissals are in direct violation of commitments you made to Members of Congress, including me. As a result of your lies, you are threatening vaccine access for millions of Americans and undermining the safety, stability, and scientific credibility of the country’s vaccine policy.

2. You abuse your name and title to mislead the public on vaccines.

You have a long-standing history of fueling anti-vaccine conspiracies with contradictory, misleading, or outright false statements. You played a central role in one of the most deadly measles outbreaks in recent history by traveling to Samoa to use the accidental, tragic deaths of two children to sow vaccine hesitancy.¹⁷ Ultimately, there were more than 5,700 measles cases and 83 people, mostly children, died.¹⁸ You wrote in 2021 that parents had been “misled” into “believing that measles is a deadly disease and that measles vaccines are necessary, safe, and effective,” and now the country is facing a deadly measles outbreak under your watch.¹⁹

Despite your occasional assertions that you are “pro-vaccine,” you have repeatedly undermined vaccines in public forums.

¹¹ Senator Bill Cassidy, “Cassidy Delivers Floor Speech In Support of RFK, Jr. To Be HHS Secretary,” (Feb. 4, 2025) <https://www.cassidy.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cassidy-delivers-floor-speech-in-support-of-rfk-jr-to-be-hhs-secretary/>.

¹² *Id.*

¹³ ACIP Committee Members, CDC, (updated April 14, 2025; archived June 9, 2025) <https://web.archive.org/web/20250609202847/https://www.cdc.gov/acip/membership/index.html>.

¹⁴ Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Policies and Procedures, CDC, at p.14, (June 2022) https://www.cdc.gov/acip/downloads/Policies-Procedures-508_1.pdf.

¹⁵ U.S. Senate Committee on Finance Hearing to consider the nomination of Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., of California, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services (Jan. 29, 2025) <https://www.finance.senate.gov/hearings/hearingto-consider-the-nomination-of-robert-f-kennedy-jr-of-california-to-be-secretary-of-health-and-human-services>.

¹⁶ Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., *Wall Street Journal*, “RFK Jr.: HHS Moves to Restore Public Trust in Vaccines,” (June 9, 2025) <https://www.wsj.com/opinion/rfk-jr-hhs-moves-to-restore-public-trust-in-vaccines-45495112>.

¹⁷ Brandy Zadrozny, *ABC News*, “Experts saw Samoa’s plunging vaccination rates as a crisis. RFK Jr. saw an opportunity,” (Jan. 24, 2025) <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/rfk-jr-samoa-measles-vaccine-crisis-rcna187787>.

¹⁸ Mary Kekatos, *ABC News*, “Measles outbreak in American Samoa declared public health emergency,” (Apr. 25, 2023) <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/measles-outbreak-american-samoa-declared-public-health-emergency/story?id=98826831>.

¹⁹ Children’s Health Defense, forward by Robert F. Kennedy Jr., “The Measles Book: Thirty-Five Secrets the Government and the Media Aren’t Telling You about Measles and the Measles Vaccine,” (Oct. 2021) https://play.google.com/books/reader?id=8YcjEAAAQBAJ&pg=GBS.PA1980&hl=en_US.

- On a podcast in 2021 you stated, “[i]f I see somebody on a hiking trail carrying a little baby I say to them ‘better not get them vaccinated.’”²⁰
- When you appeared before Congress you tried to prove you were “pro-vaccine” by noting all your children were vaccinated, yet on a podcast in 2020 you said that you would “do anything” and “pay anything” to go back in time to not vaccinate your kids.²¹
- You have said that there is “no vaccine that is safe and effective,”²² and blame the media when those words are taken at face-value.²³
- You have exhibited a specific fixation on the unfounded link between vaccines and autism,²⁴ despite being presented with overwhelming evidence disputing the link, particularly by HELP Chairman Cassidy during a hearing before that Committee.²⁵
- While at Children’s Health Defense (CHD), you were involved in over 30 state and federal lawsuits challenging vaccine regulations.²⁶
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, you profited off of misinformation, with a journal article finding you the “top superspreader” of low-credibility information.²⁷
- Similarly, your recent “Make America Health Again” report was riddled with errors and AI generated text.²⁸ It cited non-existent papers and reports, included broken links, and mischaracterized findings.

The list goes on. At every turn, you sow confusion and espouse dangerous, anti-vaccine positions and misinformation.

Your efforts to undermine vaccine confidence are not only immoral, but they constitute significant financial conflict of interest. Specifically, you received roughly \$2,500,000 in the last three years, partly from your involvement with litigation against Merck related to its human

²⁰ Daniel Dale, *CNN*, “Fact check: RFK Jr. claimed he’s never told people to avoid vaccination. He did – less than two years ago,” (July 21, 2023) <https://www.cnn.com/2023/07/21/politics/fact-check-rfk-not-anti-vax/index.html>; Health Freedom for Humanity, “The State of Health Freedom with Robert F. Kennedy Jr.,” (Sep. 3, 2021) <https://open.spotify.com/episode/35g2YP4hff5b4DoQoUSZvh>.

²¹ Senate Committee on Finance, Hearing to consider the nomination of Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., of California, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services, (Jan. 29, 2025) <https://www.finance.senate.gov/hearings/hearingto-consider-the-nomination-of-robert-f-kennedy-jr-of-california-to-be-secretary-of-health-and-human-services>; Testimony of Robert F. Kennedy Jr., (Jan. 29, 2025) https://www.finance.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/01292025_kennedy_statement.pdf; Lauren Weber and Caitlin Gilbert, *Washington Post*, (Jan. 28, 2025) <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2025/01/28/rfk-jr-disparaged-vaccines-dozens-times-recent-years-misled-race/>.

²² Robert F. Kennedy Jr: CIA, Power, Corruption, War, Freedom, and Meaning, *Lex Fridman Podcast #388* (July 11, 2023) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iWTCcZwulZ8>; <https://lexfridman.com/robert-f-kennedy-jr-transcript/>.

²³ Senate Committee on Finance, Hearing to consider the nomination of Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., of California, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services, (Jan. 29, 2025) <https://www.finance.senate.gov/hearings/hearingto-consider-the-nomination-of-robert-f-kennedy-jr-of-california-to-be-secretary-of-health-and-human-services>; Testimony of Robert F. Kennedy Jr., (Jan. 29, 2025) https://www.finance.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/01292025_kennedy_statement.pdf.

²⁴ Mike Wendling, *BBC*, “RFK Jr pledges to find the cause of autism by September,” (Apr. 11, 2025) <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cj0z9nmzvdlo>; Jesse Waters *Primetime*, “Robert F. Kennedy Jr: Fauci ‘caused a lot of injury,’” (July 10, 2023) <https://www.foxnews.com/video/6330950198112>.

²⁵ Senate Committee On Health, Education, Labor, And Pensions S. Hrg. 119–21, (Jan. 30, 2025) <https://www.congress.gov/119/chrg/CHRG-119shrg59490/CHRG-119shrg59490.pdf>.

²⁶ Shannon Bond, *NPR*, “Inside RFK Jr.’s non-profit’s legal battles over vaccines and public health,” (Dec. 3, 2024) <https://www.npr.org/2024/12/03/nx-s1-5198506/rfk-jr-anti-vaccine-chd-lawsuits>.

²⁷ Francesco Pierri et al., *Journal of Medical Internet Research*, “One Year of COVID-19 Vaccine Misinformation on Twitter: Longitudinal Study,” (J Med Internet Res 2023;25:e42227) <https://www.jmir.org/2023/1/e42227>.

²⁸ Emily Kennard and Margaret Manto, *NOTUS*, “The MAHA Report Cites Studies That Don’t Exist,” (May 29, 2025) <https://www.notus.org/health-science/make-america-healthy-again-report-citation-errors>; Lauren Weber and Caitlin Gilbert, *Washington Post*, “White House MAHA Report may have garbled science by using AI, experts say,” (May 29, 2025) <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2025/05/29/maha-rfk-jr-ai-garble/>.

papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine Gardasil, which has been proven to protect against numerous cancers.²⁹ You have never provided clarity related to your involvement in other vaccine litigation.

Since assuming office, you have advanced your anti-vaccine position by directly impeding access. Just days after assuming the role of Secretary, ACIP's long-scheduled February meeting was postponed indefinitely.³⁰ The meeting was later rescheduled for the end of April.³¹ In May, circumventing ACIP, you unilaterally rescinded CDC recommendations related to the COVID-19 vaccine for pregnant women and children. This decision is already making it harder for parents to get their children vaccinated and for pregnant women to get themselves vaccinated and will likely lead to COVID-19 hospitalizations and even deaths. Yet, you announced this development with glee, sharing that you "couldn't be more pleased to announce"³² it.

You have also used your Senate-confirmed position as Secretary to encourage vaccine mistrust and spread misinformation.³³ The United States is currently suffering from a series of measles outbreaks. Measles is highly contagious and can kill almost 3 out of every 1,000 people. There are no Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved treatments for measles, so the best – and only – protection against the disease is two doses of the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine. Amidst this outbreak, which you have downplayed even though multiple children have died, you directed federal health agencies to search for new treatments, rather than focusing on support for MMR vaccination.³⁴ In a recent appearance on *Fox News*, you repeated numerous falsehoods about vaccines. You lied about the rigorous safety testing vaccines undergo and bizarrely claimed that "children get between 69 and 92 vaccines before they're 18."³⁵

Your ACIP dismissals undermine vaccine confidence and further your conspiratorial anti-vaccine viewpoints. They are a clear continuation of your alarming history of promoting vaccine mistrust.

²⁹ Kate Gibson, *CBS News*, "What to know about RFK Jr.'s financial ties with a personal injury law firm," (Jan. 31, 2025) <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/rfk-jr-confirmation-robert-f-kennedy-merck/>.

³⁰ Helen Branswell, *STAT*, "Meeting of key CDC vaccine advisory panel, under scrutiny by RFK Jr., is postponed," (Feb. 20, 2025) <https://www.statnews.com/2025/02/20/acip-cdc-vaccine-meeting-postponed/>.

³¹ *Reuters*, "US vaccine advisory meeting rescheduled for April," (Mar. 20, 2025) <https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/us-vaccine-advisory-meeting-rescheduled-april-2025-03-20/>.

³² Secretary Kennedy, X, Embedded video at 0:13, (May 27, 2025) "Today, the COVID vaccine for healthy children and healthy pregnant women has been removed from @CDCgov recommended immunization schedule. Bottom line: it's common sense and it's good science. We are now one step closer to realizing @POTUS's promise to Make America Healthy Again." https://x.com/seckennedy/status/1927368440811008138?s=46&t=kBbEX3mrEOJAU2F44vYIZQ#xd_co_f=ZTM0NDY2YjQtNmM5MC00MmYwLWlONjltYjAxNjY3ZTg0ZDk3~.

³³ Aria Bendix, *NBC News*, "Robert F. Kennedy Jr. falsely claims measles vaccine protection 'waned very quickly,'" <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/kids-health/health-secretary-rfk-jr-measles-vaccine-falsely-claims-wanes-rcna200636>.

³⁴ Teddy Rosenbluth, *New York Times*, "Kennedy Orders Search for New Measles Treatments Instead of Urging Vaccination," (May 2, 2025) <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/05/02/health/measles-treatments-vaccines-kennedy.html>; Amanda Seitz, *AP*, "RFK Jr.'s mixed message about the measles outbreaks draws criticism from health officials," (April 16, 2025) <https://apnews.com/article/measles-outbreak-rfk-jr-messaging-criticism-vaccine-1a2cbdc14eb0c256695fdfac00cbfb6d>; Terri Langford, *Texas Tribune*, "In visit to Texas, RFK Jr. said autism, diabetes deserve more attention than measles," (April 29, 2025) <https://www.texastribune.org/2025/04/29/texas-measles-robert-kennedy-autism/>.

³⁵ Lauren Sforza, *NJ.com*, "'Absolutely insane' RFK Jr. fact-checked by doctors after bizarre Fox News appearance," (June 13, 2025) <https://www.nj.com/politics/2025/06/absolutely-insane-rfk-jr-fact-checked-by-doctors-after-bizarre-fox-news-appearance.html>.

3. Your recent ACIP actions build on your long history of conflict of interests.

As with any government panel, conflicts of interests have the potential to erode public trust, undermine the entity's credibility, and undercut the integrity of its recommendations. For that reason, ACIP has historically had rigorous procedures in place to mitigate any such conflicts and promote transparency. Typically, ACIP members undergo significant vetting – with the average vetting process taking two years prior to an ACIP appointment – and ongoing scrutiny related to potential conflicts of interest. Members are required to fill-out continuous disclosures and are subject to reviews throughout their appointments. At the outset of each meeting, and before each vote, members with any identified conflicts recuse themselves. Further, ACIP functions in a transparent manner with open meetings, public agendas, and posted presentations.³⁶

You appear to have circumvented existing processes to single-handedly fire the 17 experts on the board and select new ACIP appointees. While you claim to be “reconstituting ACIP into an objective scientific body, rather than a political forum,”³⁷ the anti-vaccine, anti-science postures of your new ACIP appointees makes clear that what you are actually doing is reconstituting ACIP into your own political forum. Further, according to the latest reports, you dismissed the individual responsible for carrying-out potential conflict reviews and vetting, hamstringing ACIP's ability to review the myriad conflicts of your new appointees moving forward.³⁸

By every measure, your ACIP appointees bastardize this once-legitimate body for your anti-vaccine bidding. One new ACIP appointee, Dr. Robert Malone, holds fringe views, has overstated his contributions to messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccine technology, and has suggested that COVID-19 vaccines cause a form of AIDS.³⁹ Dr. Martin Kulldorff, another new ACIP member, opposed a range of established COVID-19 public health interventions, including masking and vaccinations for children, and instead put forward a natural immunity approach to the pandemic.⁴⁰ Dr. Retsef Levi, a third new ACIP member, spoke out against COVID-19 vaccines for pregnant women and supports broadly ending life-saving mRNA vaccine development programs.⁴¹ Dr. Vicky Pebsworth, a fourth appointee, is fixated on the long-disproven connection between autism and vaccines. She even signed a legal declaration on behalf of a group attempting to prove unvaccinated people were healthier than vaccinated

³⁶ Asturias EJ, Brewer NT, Brooks O, et al. Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices at a Crossroads. JAMA. Published online June 16, 2025. doi:10.1001/jama.2025.10776; Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Policies and Procedures, CDC, at p.14, (June 2022) https://www.cdc.gov/acip/downloads/Policies-Procedures-508_1.pdf.

³⁷ Department of Health and Human Services, “ACIP FAQ,” on file with Committee.

³⁸ Alexander Tin, *CBS News*, “CDC purges career officials from oversight of vaccine committee,” (June 11, 2025) <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/cdc-purges-career-officials-vaccine-recommendations-process/>.

³⁹ Mike Stobbe, *AP News*, “Kennedy's new CDC panel includes members who have criticized vaccines and spread misinformation,” (June 12, 2025) <https://apnews.com/article/cdc-acip-vaccine-committee-9f58e1f004075b081718ff078de88d76>.

⁴⁰ Hadley Barndollar, *MassLiv*, “Ex-Harvard professor fired after refusing COVID shot named to CDC vaccine panel,” (June 12, 2025) <https://www.masslive.com/news/2025/06/ex-harvard-professor-fired-after-refusing-covid-shot-named-to-cdc-vaccine-panel.html>; Martin Kulldorff, *X*, (Sep. 1, 2021) <https://x.com/MartinKulldorff/status/1433202651106201607>.

⁴¹ Retsef Levi, *X*, (May 22, 2025) “Must read by @MaryanneDemasi! Former interim acting @US_FDA director, Sara Brenner, admitted she refused the mRNA COVID vaccine while pregnant due to concern re bio distribution of the nano-lipids & mRNA! That these vaccines still recommended in pregnancy is incomprehensible!” [https://x.com/search?q=incomprehensible\(from%3ARetsefL\)&src=typed_query&f=top](https://x.com/search?q=incomprehensible(from%3ARetsefL)&src=typed_query&f=top); Retsef Levi et al., *MedRxiv*, “Twelve-Month All-Cause Mortality after Initial COVID-19 Vaccination with Pfizer-BioNTech or mRNA-1273 among Adults Living in Florida,” (Apr. 29, 2025), Note: This article was not peer reviewed; <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2025.04.25.25326460v1>.

people.⁴² Furthermore, three additional ACIP members – Dr. Joseph Hibbeln, Dr. Michael A. Ross, and Dr. James Pagano – lack any discernible expertise in vaccines, infectious disease, or immunization policy.

Alarming, you appear to have personal relationships with some of the new appointees, including Dr. Malone, Dr. Kulldorff, and Dr. Cody Meissner. You included all three in the dedication to your recent anti-vaccine book, *The Real Anthony Fauci: Bill Gates, Big Pharma, and the Global War on Democracy and Public Health*, describing them as a “battle-hardened cadre of heroic scientists.”⁴³ In the same book, you also thanked Dr. Pebsworth under your “heroic healers honor roll.”⁴⁴

Most significantly, you also have a history of aligned financial interests with two of your new ACIP appointees: Dr. Kulldorff and Dr. Malone. Your family has a financial stake with ongoing Gardasil litigation, an area of significant concern during your confirmation process.⁴⁵ In your signed ethics agreement, you disclosed a 10 percent contingency fee arrangement with the law firm Wisner Baum, including for Gardasil case referrals. After initial refusal, and following sustained pressure from me and my colleagues, you amended your ethics agreement and committed to divesting your interest in Wisner Baum cases to your son. Dr. Kulldorff served as an expert witness for Wisner Baum in Gardasil litigation, including in cases you were involved with.⁴⁶ Dr. Malone was also a paid expert witness in Merck litigation related to MMR vaccine.⁴⁷

Similar conflict of interest concerns extend to your new campaigns related to wearable devices and healthy foods.⁴⁸ Your closest confidants and advisors could benefit significantly from their financial ties to the medical device industry. Calley Means serves as a Special Government Employee (SGE) and White House adviser, and senior aide to you at HHS,⁴⁹ and his work focuses on food policy. Prior to serving in this Administration, Calley founded Truemed, a company that helps people use their pre-tax dollars on wellness items and wearable technology, including continuous glucose monitoring (CGM).⁵⁰ His sister, Casey Means, President Trump’s

⁴² Vicky Debold, Oral Public Comments IACC Full Committee Meeting, (May 12, 2008)

https://www.iacc.hhs.gov/meetings/iacc-meetings/2008/full-committee-meeting/may12/oral_public_comments_051208.pdf; Christina Jewett and Sheryl Gay Stolberg, *New York Times*, “Kennedy’s New Vaccine Advisers Helped Lawyers Raise Doubts About Their Safety,” (June 13, 2025) <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/06/13/us/politics/rfk-jr-vaccine-advisers.html>.

⁴³ Martin Enserink and Meredith Wadman, *Science*, “The members of RFK Jr.’s new vaccine committee have published little on vaccines,” (June 13, 2025) <https://www.science.org/content/article/members-rfk-jr-s-new-vaccine-committee-have-published-little-vaccines>.

⁴⁴ Robert F. Kennedy Jr., “The Real Anthony Fauci: Bill Gates, Big Pharma, and the Global War on Democracy and Public Health,” (Feb. 2023) https://play.google.com/books/reader?id=zZdkEAAAQBAJ&pg=GBS.PT6&hl=en_US.

⁴⁵ Sens. Warren & Wyden Letter to Robert F. Kennedy Jr., (Feb. 2, 2025), https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/warren_wyden_letter_to_rfk_jr.pdf; Robert F. Kennedy Jr. Ethics Agreement, OGE, (Jan. 21, 2025; amended Feb. 1, 2025) [https://extapps2.oge.gov/201/Presiden.nsf/PAS+Index/F3C8425ED335BB5685258C1A00565D57/\\$FILE/Kennedy%2C%20Jr.%2C%20Robert%20F.%20%20AMENDED%20finalEA.pdf](https://extapps2.oge.gov/201/Presiden.nsf/PAS+Index/F3C8425ED335BB5685258C1A00565D57/$FILE/Kennedy%2C%20Jr.%2C%20Robert%20F.%20%20AMENDED%20finalEA.pdf).

⁴⁶ In Re: Gardasil Products Liability Litigation (3:22-md-03036), <https://www.courtlistener.com/docket/64875241/in-re-gardasil-products-liability-litigation/?page=3>.

⁴⁷ Christina Jewett and Sheryl Gay Stolberg, *New York Times*, “Kennedy’s New Vaccine Advisers Helped Lawyers Raise Doubts About Their Safety,” (June 13, 2025) <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/06/13/us/politics/rfk-jr-vaccine-advisers.html>.

⁴⁸ Jessica Glenza, *The Guardian*, “Key RFK Jr advisers stand to profit from a new federal health initiative,” (June 21, 2025). <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jun/21/rfk-maha-ultra-processed-foods>.

⁴⁹ *Id.*; *Reuters*, “White House names Kennedy ally Means as health adviser, source says,” (March 18, 2025) <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/white-house-hires-calley-means-special-government-adviser-bloomberg-news-reports-2025-03-18/>.

⁵⁰ Jessica Glenza, *The Guardian*, “Casey Means: influencer, RFK Jr favorite – and Trump’s pick for surgeon general,” (May 11, 2025) <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/may/11/casey-means-surgeon-general-pick>.

nominee for Surgeon General, co-founded Levels, a wearable technology company that offers a CGM system combined with interactive software, to help people understand their metabolic health.⁵¹ Both Truemed and Levels – and, by extension, the Means siblings – would benefit financially from nationwide uptake of wearable devices. Given Calley Mean’s status as an SGE, he is not required to divest his holdings or publicly disclose his conflicts of interest, so the extent he stands to profit from your crusades is unknown.

4. Your actions put the vulnerable at further risk and you stand to profit from this harm.

Your actions place the American public in a dangerous situation. The impact of your ACIP coup will be most acutely felt by babies, young children, pregnant mothers, people with disabilities, and frail seniors who will suffer severe harm or even death.

While others suffer, your personal imprint on ACIP’s agenda is already evident and positions you to benefit financially. At this week’s meeting, ACIP is set to discuss recommendations regarding thimerosal in flu vaccines.⁵² Your anti-vaccine crusade began with a since-retracted 2005 article alleging that thimerosal caused autism, and you continued to highlight these unfounded claims in a 2014 book on the subject.⁵³ By bringing this long-discredited topic to the fore, you stand to further your conspiratorial claims and sell your meritless book. Additionally, the new ACIP members could make decisions related to Gardasil that would directly impact the ongoing Wisner Baum cases and financially benefit your immediate family. Similarly, the President Emerita of CHD, your former organization, is slated to present at tomorrow’s portion of the meeting on “recommendations regarding thimerosal containing influenza vaccine.”⁵⁴

Toying with ACIP for conspiratorial and financial gain poses a serious danger to the health and safety of the American public. Your new fringe ACIP appointees are well-positioned to remove vaccines from recommended schedules. This would inflame doubt in safe and effective products, likely resulting in lower vaccination rates for all. Further, these changes would also result in higher out-of-pocket costs for people receiving vaccine coverage through Medicare Part D, adults on Medicaid, and people covered by private health plans who would otherwise receive such vaccines with zero cost-sharing.⁵⁵

I am not alone in sounding the alarm regarding the unprecedented firings of all ACIP members. The Chair of the Infectious Disease Committee at the American Academy of Pediatrics called the

⁵¹ *Id.*; Truemed Partners, Levels Health; <https://www.truemed.com/shop/partners/levels-health>.

⁵² Sophie Gardner and Lauren Gardner, *Politico*, “Vaccine advisers to review ingredient RFK Jr. has long wanted banned,” (June 18, 2025) <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/06/18/vaccines-hhs-kennedy-rfk-thimerosal-mercury-00413199>; ACIP Draft Agenda for June 25 & 26, <https://www.cdc.gov/acip/downloads/agendas/draft-posted-2025-06-18.pdf>.

⁵³ Matthew Herper, *Forbes*, “Why Salon’s Autism Retraction Matters,” (Jan. 18, 2011) <https://www.forbes.com/sites/matthewherper/2011/01/18/why-salons-autism-retraction-matters/>; Sophie Gardner and Lauren Gardner, *Politico*, “Vaccine advisers to review ingredient RFK Jr. has long wanted banned,” (June 18, 2025) <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/06/18/vaccines-hhs-kennedy-rfk-thimerosal-mercury-00413199>.

⁵⁴ *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, “MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON IMMUNIZATION PRACTICES (ACIP) – Final Agenda,” (June 24, 2025) <https://www.cdc.gov/acip/downloads/agendas/Final-posted-2025-06-24-508.pdf>.

⁵⁵ Center for Value-Based Insurance Design, “Cost-Sharing for Immunizations in Medicare: Impacts on Beneficiaries and Recommendations for Policymakers,” (May 5, 2017) <https://vbidcenter.org/cost-sharing-for-immunizations-in-medicare-impacts-on-beneficiaries-and-recommendations-for-policymakers/>.

ACIP dismissals “an unmitigated public health disaster.”⁵⁶ Leading physicians groups called on you to immediately reverse the firings.⁵⁷ HELP Chairman Bill Cassidy called for a delay of this meeting,⁵⁸ and HELP Ranking Member Bernie Sanders has already called for a bipartisan investigation into these firings.⁵⁹ Over 40 hospital and provider associations, advocacy organizations, watchdog groups, and companies released strong statements opposing your actions.⁶⁰ Based on my staff’s conversations with stakeholders, there has been a significant on-the-ground outcry from physicians, parents, and seniors about the danger your actions pose to their ability to access vaccines for their patients, themselves, and their loved ones, especially young children.

The American people deserve answers. With your appalling actions in mind, and a serious concern for the health and safety of the American public, I demand a full accounting of your recent actions related to ACIP membership. Please respond to the questions below no later than July 8, 2025.

1. Which officials at HHS approved the dismissal of the ACIP members? Please identify each official involved in this decision, as well as specifically indicate if any of the below individuals, or direct reports to these individuals, were involved in this decision making. Name any such direct reports.
 - a. Secretary Kennedy, HHS.
 - b. Mehmet Oz, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, HHS.

⁵⁶ Mandavilli et al., *Advisory Board*, “Health policy roundup: RFK Jr. fires entire CDC vaccine panel,” (June 11, 2025) <https://www.advisory.com/daily-briefing/2025/06/11/health-policy-roundup>.

⁵⁷ Shannon Firth, *Medpage Today*, “AMA Calls for Senate Investigation of RFK Jr.,” (June 10, 2025) <https://www.medpagetoday.com/meetingcoverage/ama/116001>.

⁵⁸ Nathaniel Weixel, *The Hill*, “Cassidy calls to delay meeting of CDC’s vaccine panel in challenge to RFK Jr.” (June 23, 2025) <https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/5365441-cassidy-rfk-jr-vaccine-advisory-panel-meeting/>.

⁵⁹ Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. Bernie Sanders, “NEWS: Sanders Calls for Bipartisan Investigation into Secretary Kennedy’s Vaccine Committee Firings at CDC,” (June 16, 2025) <https://www.help.senate.gov/dem/newsroom/press/news-sanders-calls-for-bipartisan-investigation-into-secretary-kennedys-vaccine-committee-firings-at-cdc>.

⁶⁰ [American Academy of Family Physicians](#) Statement on June 9, 2025; [American Association of Immunologists](#) Statement on June 10, 2025; [American Association of Nurse Practitioners](#) Statement on June 10, 2025; [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) Statement on June 12, 2025; [American Academy of Physician Associates](#) Statement on June 10, 2025; [American College of Emergency Physicians](#) Press Release on June 4, 2025; [American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians](#) Statement, June 2025; [American College of Physicians](#) Statement on June 9, 2025; [American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network](#) Press Release on June 11, 2025; American Immunization Registry Association Statement on June 10, 2025; [Alliance for Aging Research](#) Statement on June 10, 2025; [American Medical Association](#) Statement on June 9, 2025; [American Medical Association](#) Press Release on June 9, 2025; [American Public Health Association](#) Press Release on June 9, 2025; [American Pharmacists Association](#) Press Release on June 9, 2025; [American Society for Microbiology](#) Press Release on June 10, 2025; [American Society for Meningitis Prevention](#) Statement on June 10, 2025; [Biotechnology Innovation Organization](#) Press Release on June 9, 2025; [California Medical Association](#) Statement on June 9, 2025; [California Immunization Coalition](#) Statement on June 9, 2025; [Community Catalyst](#) Statement on June 10, 2025; [Doctors for America](#) Statement on June 10, 2025; [FamiliesUSA](#) Statement on June 9, 2025; [Global Healthy Living Foundation](#) Press Release on June 10, 2025; [Infectious Diseases Society of America](#) Statement on June 9, 2025; [Illinois Public Health Association](#) Statement on June 10, 2025; [Immunization Coalition of Delaware](#) Statement on June 10, 2025; [Massachusetts Medical Society](#) Statement on June 10, 2025; [Medical Society of the District of Columbia](#) Statement on June 9, 2025; [National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs](#) Statement on June 10, 2025; [National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners](#) Statement on June 10, 2025; [National Association of School Nurses](#) Statement on June 10, 2025; [National Foundation for Infectious Diseases](#) Statement on June 10, 2025; [National Medical Association](#) Statement on June 10, 2025; [Partnership to Fight Infectious Disease](#) Statement on June 9, 2025; Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America Statement on June 9, 2025; [Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society](#) Statement on June 10, 2025; [Public Citizen](#) Statement on June 9, 2025; [Society for Healthcare Epidemiology](#) Statement on June 10, 2025; [Vaccinate Your Family](#) Statement on June 9, 2025.

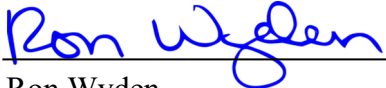
- c. David Geier, Senior Data Analyst.
 - d. Elon Musk, former Special Government Employee, DOGE.
 - e. Jim O'Neill, Deputy Secretary, HHS.
 - f. Martin Makary, Food and Drug Administration, HHS.
 - g. Any senior-level staff at the CDC, HHS. Provide names.
 - h. Any senior-level staff in the HHS Office of the Secretary. Provide names.
2. Were any Trump Administration nominees not yet appointed to their positions involved in this decision? Name any such individuals.
 3. Were any individuals serving in positions at the White House or the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) involved in this decision making? Name any such individuals.
 4. Which officials at HHS were involved in the selection of the new ACIP members? Please identify each official involved in this decision, as well as specifically indicate if any of the below individuals, or direct reports to these individuals, were involved in this decision making. Name any such direct reports.
 - a. Secretary Kennedy, HHS.
 - b. Mehmet Oz, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, HHS.
 - c. David Geier, Senior Data Analyst.
 - d. Elon Musk, former Special Government Employee, DOGE.
 - e. Jim O'Neill, Deputy Secretary, HHS.
 - f. Martin Makary, Food and Drug Administration, HHS.
 - g. Any senior-level staff at the CDC, HHS. Provide names.
 - h. Any senior-level staff in the HHS Office of the Secretary. Provide names.
 5. Were any Trump Administration nominees not yet appointed to their positions involved in this decision? Name any such individuals.
 6. Were any individuals serving in positions at the White House or the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) involved in this decision making? Name any such individuals.
 7. Please describe what qualifications, if any, each new ACIP member has that would make their appointment to an advisory committee on vaccine safety suitable. Please list all criteria used to assess candidates.
 8. Please describe what due diligence reviews, if any, related to potential conflicts of interest each new ACIP member underwent prior to their appointment. Please produce all questionnaires, responses, and any other written materials created during such a review and name which officials at HHS were involved in this vetting.
 9. Historically, individuals were recommended by a subject-matter expert or organization in order to be considered for ACIP appointment. Did this requirement apply to the new

ACIP members? If so, please name any individuals or organizations who recommended each of these new members.

10. Will new ACIP members be subject to the same significant, ongoing scrutiny related to potential conflicts of interest, including continuous disclosure and monitoring, that former ACIP members were subject to?
11. With the removal of the ACIP Executive Secretary, who will be responsible for vetting potential conflicts of interest for ACIP members?
12. Please describe how potential conflicts of interest will be determined prior to each meeting and each vote.
13. Will ACIP meetings, agendas, presentations, and members' disclosures continue to be posted publicly on the CDC website?
14. These ACIP firings renew concerns about your plans as Secretary on other critical vaccine and pharmaceutical-related issues. Please respond to each of the questions below with a simple yes or no.
 - a. Do you believe vaccines can cause autism?
 - b. Do you agree that the MMR vaccine is safe and effective?
 - c. Do you agree that the shingles vaccine is safe and effective?
 - d. Do you agree that the diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis vaccine is safe and effective?
 - e. Do you agree that the Hib vaccine is safe and effective?
 - f. Do you agree that the HPV vaccine is safe and effective?
 - g. Do you agree that the Hepatitis A vaccine is safe and effective?
 - h. Do you agree that the Hepatitis B vaccine is safe and effective?
 - i. Do you plan to seek the withdrawal of any drug or vaccine currently on the market?
 - j. Will you support the CDC Director's independent judgment in all ACIP decisions?
 - k. Do you plan to direct the CDC Director to unilaterally reject ACIP recommendations?
 - l. Will you commit to preserving the independence of federal vaccine research?
 - m. Will you commit to not forcing out career scientists and civil servants who do not share your views on vaccines?
 - n. Do you plan to support pausing production on vaccines which have been proven safe and effective?
 - o. Would you have any *personal* concerns about vaccine clinical trial designs that could result in the preventable death of a child if an existing vaccine were withheld?
 - p. Will you commit to upholding the childhood immunization schedule?
 - q. What changes would you consider making to the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP)?

- r. What evidence do you need to see in order to determine that a vaccine is safe and effective?
 - s. Will you commit to continuing the CDC's Child and Adolescent Vaccination Schedule?
 - t. What aspects of the FDA's vaccine approval process do you intend to change?
 - u. Do you believe ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine should be used to treat COVID instead of vaccines?
 - v. Do you believe nursing home residents should receive the flu vaccine annually?
15. Please provide all financial disclosures and ethics agreements for Calley Means.
16. Please detail what involvement, if any, Calley Means has had in the forthcoming HHS initiative related to wearable technology and healthy foods.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Committee
on Finance